

HOUSE BILL NO. 575

INTRODUCED BY R. BUZZAS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UNIT TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS FOR HIGH-WAGE AND HIGH-SKILL TRAINING FOR SINGLE PARENTS, PERSONS WHO ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED, AND DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS; REQUIRING THE ALLOCATION OF CERTAIN FUNDS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS FOR HIGH-WAGE AND HIGH-SKILL TRAINING FOR SINGLE PARENTS, PERSONS WHO ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED, AND DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, the state of Montana ranks among the lowest in the nation for high-paying jobs; and
WHEREAS, there is a need for the creation of higher-wage jobs and for customized "just in time training" for businesses that are expanding or relocating; and

WHEREAS, there is also a need for training in high-wage and high-skill occupations for low-income or otherwise disadvantaged populations to support workers and their families as assistance programs target self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, for the Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Higher Education currently administers the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act for secondary, postsecondary institutions, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, a pooling of state resources that are available for these types of activities will add focus and accountability in addressing the needs of this group of undertrained, low-wage workers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation -- allocation of funds.** (1) There is appropriated \$500,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of higher education's workforce development unit for each of the fiscal years 2002 and 2003 to pay for the development of programs for high-wage and high-skill training for single parents, persons who are economically disadvantaged, and displaced

1 homemakers.

2 (2) The department of public health and human services shall allocate \$500,000 from the
3 temporary assistance for needy families block grant for each of the fiscal years 2002 and 2003 to pay for
4 the development of programs for high-wage and high-skill training for single parents, persons who are
5 economically disadvantaged, and displaced homemakers.

6 (3) The department of commerce shall allocate \$250,000 from the community development block
7 grant for each of the fiscal years 2002 and 2003 to pay for the development of programs for high-wage
8 and high-skill training for single parents, persons who are economically disadvantaged, and displaced
9 homemakers.

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2001.

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